General Assembly

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Agenda item 66 (*a*)

# Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/62/435)*]

## 62/139. World Autism Awareness Day

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

*Recalling also* the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] according to which children with disabilities should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community, as well as the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children,

*Affirming* that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals,

*Aware* that autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life and results from a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, mostly affecting children in many countries irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status, and characterized by impairments in social interaction, problems with verbal and non-verbal communication and restricted, repetitive behaviour, interests and activities,[5]

*Deeply concerned* by the prevalence and high rate of autism in children in all regions of the world and the consequent development challenges to long-term health care, education, training and intervention programmes undertaken by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as well as its tremendous impact on children, their families, communities and societies,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[4] Resolution 61/106, annex I.

[5] See *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*, tenth revision (subcategories F84.0 and F84.1), endorsed by the forty-third World Health Assembly in May 1990.

*Recalling* that early diagnosis and appropriate research and interventions are vital to the growth and development of the individual,

1. *Decides* to designate 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2008;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Autism Awareness Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of autism;

3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding children with autism;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations.

*76th plenary meeting*
*18 December 2007*